(b) if so, whether detailed proposals have been drawn for this purpose; and

(c) what are those proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) to (c) The ceiling of withdrawal from the Employees' Provident Fund for construction of House was raised from 24 months to 36 months basic wages and dearness allowance w.e.f. 13-7-1985. The wage limit for membership of fund has also been raised from Rs. 1600 to Rs. 2500 per month w.e.f. 1-9-1985. All those drawing wages up to Rs. 2500 per month are therefore, now entitled to withdrawal up to 36 months basic wages and dearness allowance, for house building purpose.

Revision of minimum wages

2294. SHRI S. W. DHABE:
PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

What is Government's policy in regard to revision of minimum wages after the initial fixation of the wages under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948;

(b) whether it is a fact that though hospitals are covered by the Minimum Wages Act, wages of hospital employees, have not been revised for a long time and in some cases for more than a decade;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in some States like Maharashtra, employees working in Government hospitals are paid Rs. 4.04 per day even now; and

(d) if so, whether any guidelines have been issued to the various State Governments regarding the revision of minimum wages; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) Section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 lays down that the "appropriate Government" shall review at such intervals as it may think fit, such intervals not exceeding 5 years, the minimum rates of wages and revise them if necessary. However, the 31st Session of the Labour Ministers' Conference held in July, 1980 recommended that the minimum wages should be reviewed and revised, if necessary, once at least in two years or on a rise of 50 Points in the Consumer Price Index Number, whichever is earlier. Some of the State Governments have linked wages with the Consumer Price Index Number to provide for periodic increase in minimum wages with the rise in the Index Number.

(b) The employment in hospitals was not in the original schedule under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 However, by virtue of the powers under Section 27 of the aforesaid Act, some of the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations (e.g. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Delhi) have added the employment in private hospitals/ nursing homes, etc. to the Schedule under the Act and fixed minimum wages for this employment. A statement giving the dates of fixation/revision of minimum wages by the aforesaid State Governments and Delhi Administration is attached. (*See* below).

(c) According to the available information, the Government of Maharashtra revised the minimum wages in the employment in hospitals on January 29, 1985, the basic rate of minimum wages for the unskilled category being Rs. 400, Rs. 450 and Rs. 500 p.m. according to zones. In addition, there is an element of special allowance which is revised every six months. As regards the daily rates of wages in Government hospitals the required information is awaited from the Government of Maharashtra.

(d) The State Governments/Union Territories Administrations have been requested from time to time to follow the recommendation of the 31st Session of the Labour Ministers' Conference referred to in reply to part (a) of the question.

Statement

Sl. No.	State Government/U.T. Administration	Name of the Scheduled Employment	Date of fixation/ revision of minimum wages	Rates of minimum wages for the lowest category
1	Andhra Pradesh	Hospitals, nursing Homes and Clinics other than Government Hospitals and Dispensaries.	19-9-85	Rs. 350 p.m.
2	Gujarat	(a) Hospitals and Nursing Homes.	26-9-84	Rs. 12.35 & Rs. 13.10 per day according to zones + VDA.
		(b) Any dispensary of a medical practitioner or in any clinical or pathological laboratories.		Rs. 12.35 & Rs. 13.10 per day + VDA.
3	Kerala.	Private Hospitals and Dispensaries.	8-9-80	Rs. 120—5—170 p.m. + Rs. 283.50 D.A. as in May, 1985.
4	Maharashtra	Hospitals not falling under entry 6 in Part I of the Schedule.	29-1-85	Rs. 400, Rs. 450 & Rs. 500 p.m. according to zones + special allowance
5	Tamil Nadu	Hospitals and Nursing Homes other than Government and ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries.	1-7-83	Rs. 210 p.m. or Rs. 8.08 per day + Rs. 2.55 D.A. per day w.e.f. 1-7-85.
6	Delhi	Hospitals and Nursing Homes not carried on by Government or a Local Authority.	15-10-85	Rs. 15.90 per day or Rs. 414 p.m.